

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06582 270400Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 EUR-12
/143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2540

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: EA PRESS SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON OIL PROSPECTING

REF: EPF-67 (7/20/78)

1. BOTH TEXACO AND JAPANESE EMBASSY HAVE NOW ASKED US TO
VERIFY THE NEWS STORY QUOTED BELOW. WE DREW ON REF. WIRELESS
FILE TO REFUTE STORY BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT, BECAUSE IT
DOES NOT ADDRESS SOME POINTS, IT IS MISLEADING. REQUEST
GUIDANCE.

2. STORY WHICH APPEARED IN KOREA HERALD ON JULY 23 IS
HEADLINED:

QUOTE

PROSPECTS DIM FOR U.S. FIRMS' SHELF PROBES. WASHINGTON (OP) -
THE PROSPECT OF AMERICAN MAJOR OIL COMPANIES PARTICIPATING
IN EXPLORATION OF OIL IN THE SEVENTH SECTOR OFF CHEJU ISLAND
WAS CONFIRMED AS DIM FRIDAY.

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(P) STATE DEPARTMENT EAST ASIAN BUREAU SPOKESMAN JACK
CANNON SAID THAT OUR GENERAL POLICY HAS BEEN TO ADVISE
U.S. COMPANIES TO STAY OUT OF DISPUTED AREAS UNTIL SOME
SETTLEMENT IS REACHED. THIS ADVICE HAS PERTAINED PARTICULARLY
TO PETROLEUM EXPLORATORY AND DRILLING OPERATIONS.

(P) WHEN THE JAPANESE DIET AND UPPER CHAMBER CLEARED THE

ROK-JAPAN JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE CONTINENTAL SHELF
BILL LAST MONTH, THE PEKING COMMUNIST REGIME RAISED A
DISPUTE AGAIN AGAINST SUCH JOINT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEVENTH
SECTOR SOUTHWEST OF CHEJU BY SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN.

(P) SPOKESMAN CANNON MEANWHILE, DIDNOT DENY A JAPANESE
PRESS REPORT THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE BUILDING A NAVAL
BASE ALONG THE EAST COAST OF NORTH KOREA BETWEEN CHONGJIN
AND NAJIN.

(P) ASKED FOR A COMMENT ON THE YOMJURI DAILY REPORT ABOUT
A POSSIBLE SOVIET NAVAL BASE ALONG THE NORTH KOREAN EAST
COAST, CANNON TOOK THE QUESTION THURSDAY AND POSTED AN
ANSWER FRIDAY SAYING, 'WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS TO THAT
EFFECT, BUT WE HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THEM.'

(P) CANNON ALSO NOTED THURSDAY AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING
THAT FOUR U.S. MAJOR OIL COMPANIES -- EXXON, PHILLIPS
PETROLEUM, UNION OIL OF CALIFORNIA AND PENNZOIL OIL OF
HOUSTON -- WERE OR WILL BE IN CHINA TO CONTRACT 'PRIVATE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPLORATION OF OFFSHORE OIL-DRILLING.'

END QUOTE
GLEYSTEEEN

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Message Attributes

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